

Burial Preservation Board Minutes

May 19, 2017

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Working Lunch

Old Livestock Building

Basement Conference Room

1310 East Lockey

Helena, MT 59601

Members present: Marilyn Silva, Skye Gilham, Richard Parenteau, Morris “Davy” Belgard, William Big Day, Steve Platt, Conrad Fisher.

Staff: Mike Manion, Stan Wilmoth, Monica Abbott.

1. Call meeting to order: *Marilyn Silva, Acting Chair*
Marilyn Silva called the order at 10:26 a.m.
2. Introductions and opening prayer
The members present introduced themselves. William Big Day gave the opening prayer.
3. Officer Elections: *Mike Manion*
Mike Manion explained the elections process. Members of the board can use a ballot for election or the board can elect someone by acclamation, the decision is up to the board. Morris Belgard nominated Conrad Fisher for chair and Steve Platt nominated Marilyn for vice chair. Conrad declined his nomination. Conrad nominated Marilyn as chair. There was unanimous acclamation for Marilyn as Chair.
Richard Parenteau nominated Rosemary Caye as Vice Chair. There was unanimous acclamation of Rosemary for Vice Chair.

Director John Lewis came to meet the board. He introduced himself to the board and greeted each of the members.
4. ***Action Item***: Approve April 22, 2016 Meeting Minutes
A motion to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2016 meeting was offered by Conrad with Richard seconding the motion. Marilyn asked for any concerns. Steve Platt asked about if remains were reburied. Mike said that will be discussed later in the agenda. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimous.
5. ***Action Item***: Pvt. Nathan Short remains: *Mike Manion*
Stan contacted Mike about these remains after being contacted by Bob Doran. Mike drafted a short legal opinion. No one knows for sure if the remains are there and if the landowner approves searching for remains. Mr. Doran wants to remove the remains, then the board would make a determination if a permit to move the remains would be given to Mr. Doran. Lt. Col. Howser and the Department of Army issued an opinion that the remains should remain in the ground. The department of Army is considered as the last descendant. At this point the board doesn't have to act. Steve related that there are stories but not clear that there really are remains. There was discussion of what could have happened.

Mike offered two suggestions to the board. One is to let it stand as is and two is to have some investigation. Marilyn called for a motion. Conrad offered a motion to accept the letter from the Army and not to proceed any further until we receive more information. Davy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

6. Old business

Action Items: Old cases – Stan Wilmoth

Smith River Remains

Rosemary and Ruthann were on site. There was some disagreement of actual burial or spring flooding. Some small remains were collected and delivered to Stan until board makes a decision. There was talk about monitoring. FWP will check the area on a regular basis. The minutes stated they would be buried on the Des Rosier property. There are several items scheduled for the Des Rosier property. Steve suggested to wait until next meeting and decide then if the remains haven't been placed. Stan mentioned some of the Chevalier ranch remains have already been placed on the Des Rosier property and he would like the remains to be buried together with them so they are separated.

Morris would like to rebury the remains from the Chinook High School. Steve offered a motion to have Morris rebury the remains from the Chinook High School and Stan will contact John Murray about the remains to be buried on the Des Rosier property. Skye seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Stan has a box in his office of very old trade beads Crow nation, as well as remains from Custer battlefield that went to Wyoming with close gunshot wounds. Conrad suggested contacting the National Park Service. It might have records and accounts. The remains were near the state park at Rosebud battlefield. Stan will contact the park to see if they can be reburied there.

Conrad offered a motion to have Stan contact Rosebud Park for reburial of remains and beads and he will contact Conrad and William once he has approval. William seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Choteau county Calvary scout. The crime lab in 1985 identified the remains as a native Crow scout. Davy offered a motion to bury at First People's after Stan contacts the manager. Stephen and Stan will take remains and Morris will attend at a date to be set. Richard will also attend. Richard seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Western Energy – the reburial was completed. The body was wrapped in leather that was with the remains. They thought it was a buffalo robe and estimated in the 1700's.

Conrad related some of six battles in eleven months starting in 1876 March. Later moved to Oklahoma for two years and then moved back to Montana. The last battle in 1890.

George Lane – Mike says the letter was sent to the museum in Virginia City but didn't know about anything disposition. Steve heard the foot was cremated and the ashes will be put with grave of George Lane.

7. New business

a. ***Action Item***: Rattlesnake Remains:

Rosemary was going to report on these remains but was unable to attend this meeting. Stan related that the city had offered to bury the remains in a cemetery in Missoula. Seven remains have been found so waiting for the board recommendation. Marilyn suggested the board should have the city have someone contact Sgt. Jace Dicken regarding the remains.

Morris moved that Mike contact the city to have the remains buried in a cemetery in Missoula. Conrad asked who owns the property. Mike believed it was city property. Skye seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. It was suggested to ask Rosemary give her report at the next meeting.

b. ***Action Item***: *New cases: Stan Wilmoth*

In McCone County human skull was discovered that is not part of a crime scene. There was a pile of rocks nearby and other bones in pile of rocks. It is okay with landowner to leave in place and skull placed back with bones.

The Department of Justice has a forensic report of a cranium discovered by hiker. It was identified as a very young adult female Native American. It was at the University in December 2016 and now with Stan in 2017. It is from Ashland Flats in Rosebud County. Found by Otter Creek just off the reservation.

There was a cranium found by hiker native adult male. Non-human bones were mixed with the human cranium. They were located in the Powder River County, very weathered and no dental work so that it's likely over 200 years old. Conrad will rebury them if no one else wants to claim them. Conrad made a motion that Northern Cheyenne will bury them on state or federal lands near where they found. Morris seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Richard reported that Duane Reid is the new Historic Preservation Officer (HPO) for the Little Shell Tribe.

8. Public Comment

Nothing offered.

9. ***Action Item***: Set next meeting date

Conrad offered a motion to adjourn. Morris seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.